

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially the undersigned would like to thank Examiner Juska for the courtesies extended during an oral hearing held with the undersigned on January 13, 2004. During the above noted oral hearing, the outstanding final rejection was discussed in detail particularly with regard to new claim 11 previously submitted in Applicant's RCE application. It was agreed between Examiner Juska and the undersigned that the amended claim 11 did overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 based on the Hamberger reference.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant has amended independent claims 9 and 10 in a manner consistent with previously amended independent claim 11. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now define over the Hamberger '733 document. An early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the

Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

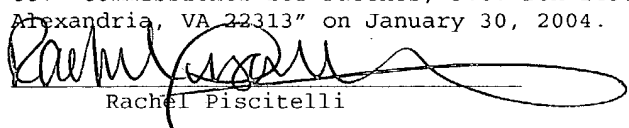
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 30, 2004.


Rachel Piscitelli